

THE MCGILL DAILY

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A broken hoo-ha man on a Halifax pier since 1911

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1994

Election victories, depending on who you are

Yeghoyan takes over Shatner with 17 per cent margin

BY DAMION STODOLA & MELANIE NEWTON

Just over three thousand McGill students (15 per cent of the eligible undergraduate population) voted in an almost new Students' Society executive.

Although Sevag Yeghoyan won the presidency with 595 votes, he did not win a majority — he only attained 17 per cent of the popular vote.

"It obviously was a close race," he said. "But I don't see why other candidates shouldn't be able to band together with me to accomplish things that would benefit the entire university." One of Yeghoyan's main priorities is safety on campus and in the Ghetto.

Five of the six candidates received over 550 votes.

Rich Latour came in a close second, with 584 votes. Tracey Solomon, one of the strongest candidates on paper, came in third 11 votes behind. Jennifer Small, whose progressive



Sevag Yeghoyan: Student's Society's new Captain Kirk

platform advocated the need for improved daycare facilities and a racial harassment policy won vp university affairs with 802 votes (32 per cent). Of four women who ran for Students' Society executive positions (in

a field of 19 candidates) she was the only one elected.

Vp internal Cornell Wright and vp finance Paul Johnson, the only two incumbents running, were both re-elected. Whereas Wright breezed

to his second victory with 71 per cent of the votes, Johnson only beat opponent Carol Zabbal by 8 per cent.

New vp external Nick Benedict won't be going to France next year as he planned to do if he lost. Instead he says he'll be working for the Ghetto Safety Audit, francophone enrollment at McGill, and fairer tuition fees as VP External Affairs. He won with 1144 votes or 50 per cent.

"We've got to go to the government with a plan. We have to take advantage of the fact that this is an election year and education will be an issue. We have to look at ways to balance accessibility with sufficient funding," Benedict said.

Eighty per cent majority of students voted against banning Students' Society sponsorship for Red Cross blood drives.

"I think it's an issue that's going to take a while for students to gain all the facts they need to make a decision. And I think that an election period is a bit too short for them to

get that information," said current vp university affairs Ruth Promislow.

In other results, Leslie Ravenstein is the new President of the Arts Undergraduate Society, along with Richard C. Latour, incoming vp academic. Karen Kwok and Victoria Ahn are the new Science Senators and Stefan Hawes is the Management Senator.

Former Engineering Undergraduate Society President William Phillipson has been elected to the McGill's Board of Governors.

John Alberts, Dani Colt, Mary Foster, Pervez Siddiqui, Rajesh Joshi, Andre McCarthy were elected to the Board of Directors of the Daily Publications Society.

Students voted to change the French title of the Students' Society, formerly L'Association Étudiante et Étudiante de L'Université McGill to L'Association Étudiante de L'Université McGill (AÉUM).

Noumoff criticizes Senate obstruction

BY MAX FRANCISCO

The March 9 Senate meeting began with Senator Noumoff standing on a point of privilege. He was upset that the Senate Steering Committee had stricken out one of the questions he had intended to ask.

Senator Noumoff's question concerned McGill's position on the McIntyre parking garage. "The McIntyre parking garage is a damn mess," said Noumoff.

McGill had already received two warnings from the city concerning the state of the garage and Noumoff was hoping his question would bring attention to the situation.

Noumoff had been told by the committee that "there were a lot of items on the agenda, and [the Senate] did not think it was of an academic nature."

But Noumoff continued: "Senate receives the report from the Committee on Physical Development and that deals with things like architecture and the buildings."

Senator Kwok was also unhappy because his question was removed from the agenda. "Senate deals with the overall well-being of the [McGill] community," he said. "My question was just as relevant to the agenda as was the McIntyre Building parking garage question by Professor Noumoff."

Kwok's question asked when McGill would remove the news groups which deal with a wide range of material considered to be obscene from the Internet. He pointed out that the University of Waterloo had removed news groups contrary to Canada's obscenity laws.

Victoria Lees, head of the Senate Steering Committee, explained the reason why the questions were taken off the agenda. "If the question can be handled through normal channels (ie. letters, telephone), then the question would be removed from the agenda."

In response to Lees's statement, Senator Kwok said, "I had submitted a similar question to VP [Planning and Resources] François Tavenas before the study break. Upon my return I had received no response, so I sent it to the Steering Committee so that VP Tavenas

could answer the question."

When asked about Senator Kwok's previous correspondence with VP Tavenas, Secretary Lees stated, "I was not aware of [Senator] Kwok's communication."

Noumoff's question was put aside for consideration by Tavenas.

In a related circumstance, Professor Noumoff had wanted a copy of Maitre Raynald Mercille's memo concerning the McGill's right to access university property and personal possessions to be circulated to the

senators. However, the Steering Committee decided not to circulate the document.

"No reason was given [for why the document was not circulated]," Noumoff said after the meeting.

But VP Internal Affairs Ruth Promislow, who is on the Steering Committee, said, "the Committee won't circulate a document unless it is directly related to [regular] Senate proceedings."

Victoria Lees gave a different reason. She stated that with the sheer vol-

ume of documents that need to be circulated, any senator who wants to distribute background documents on their question would strain human resources and money for photo-copies.

In response to Noumoff's question concerning the universities rights to access, VP Tavenas said the University would still reserve the right to search offices, and other university facilities, but they would not search personal effects such as briefcases, purses or mail.

Megahospital proposal receives unanimous support

BY DAMION STODOLA

The amalgamation of five of Montréal's largest hospitals with McGill's Faculty of Medicine is one step closer to reality following the final report of the task force on the McGill University Teaching Hospital.

The proposal suggests that five of McGill's teaching hospitals, as well as the Faculty of Medicine, move their operations to a common downtown site in order to provide better patient care and better utilize the limited resources available.

The hospitals affected are the Montréal General, the Royal Victoria, the Montréal Children's, the Montréal Chest, and the Montréal Neurological. The Jewish General has remained firm in their decision not to join the plan.

Alex Paterson, chair of McGill's Board of Governors and chair of the task force, said the proposal was nothing new.

"We are convinced that combin-

ing our strengths will produce better patient care, teaching and research, providing Montréal and Québec with a first class facility, and solidifying

McGill's position as one of the top ten medical faculties in the world."

According to the final report, the creation of a new superhospital will

be able to implement modern medical practices. The most important is

Continued on Page 2

FOR YOUR SAFETY

The Walksafe Network (WSN) and the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill's Students Society (SACOM) have been authorized by those reporting incidents to release the following information in order to raise awareness for personal safety.

On February 27th, 1994 between 3:30pm and 4:00pm, the following two incidents occurred in front of the Rutherford Physics Building:

While entering the building, a lady was stopped by a man in a grey car. After asking her if she spoke English, he then proceeded to tell her that he worked for the government and wanted to check her teeth. He had a scratch pad with him, but no other instruments. He asked her to come into the car. After refusing his request for her to

enter his car, he stepped out of the car, lunged at her face, prying open her mouth and examined her teeth. During the course of the interaction, he insisted that she give him her number.

Another woman was approached by the same man who asked her if she spoke English, then told her he was a dentist and wanted to see her teeth. He said that he was looking for patients and asked her the date of her last dental appointment. He reached out of the car for her, demanding to see her teeth. As well, he showed her ripped out pages with pictures of teeth.

The assailant is described as being a caucasian (with dark skin) male, approx. between 30 and 35 years of age, had a receding hairline, almost bald, had a moustache, unshaven, medium height approx.

5'8", and thin. The vehicle is described as being a big American car, blue or gray, Cadillac style.

On February 20th, 1994 at 1:00am, between MontRoyal and Rachel on Esplanade, a woman was followed by a man in a car who repeatedly asked many questions, including whether he could have her phone number. The woman felt that he was trying to get her into his car as he would start his questions louder and then the volume of his voice would decrease. The man is described as being caucasian, with dark hair, approximately in his 30's. At the time of the incident, the man was driving a boxy, small, dull-coloured car.

If anyone has any information or has witnessed similar incidents, please contact SACOM at 398-2700 or WSN at 398-2498.

Professor sues McGill for harassment

BY ROBIN PERELLE

Professor Osama Al-Zand, an accomplished member of McGill's Agricultural Economics department, is suing

the university for over \$800 000 on charges of racial harassment and discrimination.

In an interview with the *Gazette* last year, Al-Zand insisted that the decision to take legal action was a last resort. "I tried very hard to resolve this dispute internally, but all attempts failed," he said.

Dr. Al-Zand, who was instrumental in the development of both the graduate and undergraduate programs in his department, would not comment on his situation at the present time since the case is still pending.

His court declaration, however, states the harassment began in 1985 when Roger Buckland was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. For

the next five years, Al-Zand claims he was subjected to "discrimination, harassment, abuse, defamation of character and denial of fundamental rights."

Al-Zand describes that period of his life as an "uninterrupted pattern... (of) stressful and demeaning working conditions." He has been on sick leave due to this stress since December 1992.

McGill's lawyer Raynald Mercille contends that the information currently available to the public gives an inaccurate view of the situation. "What you will see [in the public documents at the court] is one-sided because the university has not yet filed all of its documents," says Mercille.

Promising that McGill will file its defense within the next 2-3 weeks, Mercille added that the sub-judice rule, which prohibits discussion of a case presently under court scrutiny, prevents him from further commenting on the proceedings.

However, he did provide an indication of how his client will respond to the charges. Mercille asserts that, "all of professor Al-Zand's previous grievances have been rejected, including a complaint of racism that was rejected by the Human Rights Commission last year."

Al-Zand maintains that Buckland repeatedly tried to jeopardize his research and damage his career.

In May 1988, after enduring three years of Buckland's harassment and intimidation, Al-Zand filed a complaint against his department for "unjust denial of salary adjustments."

Rather than solving the problem, the professor claims the move simply served to heighten the tension as Buckland and the department chairperson H. Garth Coffin retaliated.

Without informing Dr. Al-Zand, they conducted an audit of his accounts and then accused him of intentionally misusing research funds. Although the professor says they based the report on inaccurate and misleading information, the department sent its findings to the Operation Grants Committee of Agriculture Canada. As a result, Al-Zand was denied access to research funding for over four years, effectively paralyzing any advancement opportunities from within his field.

Al-Zand is not alone. In the past three years, McGill has faced at least four charges of human-rights violations. Dr. Ben Preiss, a professor at the University of Sherbrooke who is presently embroiled in his own harassment dispute, sympathizes with Al-Zand and supports his efforts.

"Dr. Al-Zand has been mistreated and is fighting back," says Preiss. "I just hope he wins."

Megahospital, continued from page 1

remedying the problem of technology with experience. High-tech procedures are currently spread across all the hospitals and patients are often forced to travel extensively between institutions to receive proper care.

The creation of one central hospital allows better coordination between doctors and specialists and means patients only need travel to one place. It also improved the Faculty of Medicine's ability to train and provide services for the health care sector.

Dean of Medicine, Dr. Richard Cruess was at first doubtful of the project but has since changed his mind. "Maybe 20 or 25 years ago we could go nose to nose with anyone on the world," Cruess told the *McGill Reporter*. "These centres are where the cutting edge in research is."

The proposal calls for the new hospital to have a central location on between 15 to 35 acres, near a metro and to incorporate human elements of patient care: like an increased number of private rooms, the use of colour and greenery to speed up patient recovery and the use of better technologies to make hospitals cleaner.

But the most amazing fact is that with an estimated cost of over a billion dollars no one seems to be criticising the plan. People from all walks of health-care are applauding the plan claiming it achieves an important step in improving patient care.

The only criticism the report has faced was at Senate, where senators were concerned about approving the report in principle. Professors Gopnik, Vogel and Bell wanted more time to study the proposal before ratifying it.

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Progressive Zionist Caucus presents Wedding in Galilee

BY ROBIN PERELLE

In an effort to promote greater discussion about the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Progressive Zionist Caucus (PZC) of McGill is sponsoring a screening of the Arab film *Wedding in Galilee* tomorrow.

The event will be hosted by Ahmed El-Karini, a graduate of Concordia's Film Studies program, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

El-Karini, a Palestinian-born Canadian, chose to present the film about Palestinians struggling to have a wedding in the occupied region of Galilee because he believes it tries to promote understanding in a moving and funny way.

"It's a wonderful film," says El-Karini. "Emotionally, it conveys very well the impossibility for Palestinians to have a normal life under occupation."

Produced in 1987 by Michel Khalifa, a Belgian-Palestinian filmmaker, the movie won that year's Cannes Critic's Award.

Several weeks ago, El-Karini attended a PZC screening of *Late Summer Blues*, an Israeli film about the conflicts plaguing Arab-Israeli relations. He recalls how moved he was by the presentation, and how it inspired him to propose another screening.

"This time I want the audience to be affected by an Arab movie, the way I was affected by the Israeli movie," says El-Karini.

Michael Silverman, co-president of the PZC, admits that the presentation comes at a time when tensions are still running high on all sides, particularly in light of the recent killings in Hebron, but hopes that the event will draw a sizeable crowd prepared to share their feelings in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

"Our goal is to pursue more dialogue," says Silverman. "We've always been in favour of negotiating and talking. I just hope people will come and get some good discussion going."

El-Karini agrees, "It's not about arguing or scoring a propaganda point for one side or the other. It's about understanding."

"We must learn to feel for each other," he adds.

The film presentation will be followed by a discussion about the Arab-Israeli dilemma. Specifically, El-Karini will attempt to show that the undeclared "War of Attrition", consisting of a constant bombardment of the Sinai Peninsula between 1970-1972, serves as a powerful metaphor for the past 45 years of strained relations in Israel.

"Our history has been a long war of attrition," sighs El-Karini, referring to the perception that over the years each side has left the other to bleed in between violent confrontations.

"Now our only way out is through the continuation of the peace process," says El-Karini, though he believes that Tuesday's presentation will take a step in the right direction.

Wedding in Galilee will be shown at 16h on Tuesday, March 15th in room 302 of the Union Building. Admission is free.

City privatizing municipal services

Municipal parking system handed over to private enterprise

BY DAMION STODOLA

The official opposition criticised Mayor Doré Monday at council for having secretly rushed into privatizing the municipal parking system.

Leader of the Opposition Sam Boskey said the city ignored its standard policy of publicly calling for tenders and refused to make impact studies and other information public.

"The procedure followed did not let city council know what was going on," said Boskey. "Nothing was explained, no financial impact analysis was done."

Boskey also claims that a private corporation is not accountable to

the citizens. "The City is subjected to access to information act while a private company is not."

Montréal's 6,200 parking space and 11,500 parking meters will be controlled by a subsidiary of the

Similar efforts to privatize services taken on by bigger governments than the city of Montréal have led to disaster.

Doré brushed off attacks claiming the new deal benefits all Montréalers. While the deal may be beneficial to the city, Doré's side-stepping did not change the fact that the city did not follow standard procedure in signing the deal.

Board of Trade called Parking Montréal.

The 30-year deal will hand over their management in exchange for \$76.8 million and \$10.3 million annually, representing the amount collected last year. If Parking

Montréal makes a profit, profits will be shared equally with the city.

But the Chamber of Commerce is not putting up a penny of its own money. Forty of the \$76.8 million is being guaranteed by the City.

In fact, Parking Montréal does not even exist yet. "They do not have any staff, capital, or experience," said Boskey. "It's all based on a hope and a prayer."

Doré deflected Boskey's criticisms and said Montréal is simply following a precedent set in other North American cities. "Everybody's a winner under this deal. The city will retain control over parking policies, while the daily management of the parking lots will be carried out by the board of trade," Doré told the *Gazette*.

Under the agreement, the City will retain the power to set fines and parking rates, ensuring that abuse will at least be committed by the City (theoretically responsible to the citizens).

Boskey disagrees. He says different laws apply to companies than to governments. Having a company run the parking system turns a public good into a commercial one. "When public services stray from urban planning and services to commercial services, conflicts of interest arise," said Boskey.

In addition, 70 per cent of Parking Montréal's profits are to be turned over to the Chamber of Commerce to be reinvested in a new economic development fund, managed by the Chamber, and not to the half dozen underfunded economic development agencies already operated by the City.

"The money coming off [from Parking Montréal] will be used to further the Chamber of Commerce political agenda," said Boskey. "[The deal] coming from a government which had a social-democratic orientation is horrifying."

Plans to privatize city aqueducts in process

The city is also studying the possibility of privatizing its aqueducts in the hopes of modernising 280 kilometers of 80-year old pipes and equipment.

"We could redo them [80-year old pipes] entirely without increasing the debt of the city," said mayor Jean Doré. "In the present context of budgetary and fiscal restraint and within the management of the city of Montréal, working groups are thinking of ways to face future challenges in this portfolio."

These working groups are also responsible for the Parking Montréal deal and are trying to find solutions to the city's debt.

But, similar efforts to privatize services taken on by bigger governments than the city of Montréal have led to disaster. In British Columbia, the provincial government was eventually forced to abandon privatization because private companies simply did not know how to run government services.

"The City is looking for money and money doesn't come without strings attached," said Boskey.

Refugee appeal system a hoax

BY ANNA MARTINEZ

A Mexican man enters Canadian territory in October 1993 bearing the signs of a torture victim — scars, a nervous twitch and the like. He pleads for refugee status on the basis of political discrimination in his native country.

A Peruvian woman crosses the border and asks for refugee status. She is the victim of rape by the police. It is dangerous for her to return home and face her oppressors.

Both people enter the country and have their plea reviewed by two officers from the Immigration Refugee Board (IRB). The present situation in their country is reviewed along with their personal situation.

Based on this information and the definition of a refugee, given in the United Nations (UN) Treaty Series, a decision is formed. This decision, however, is sometimes biased by the personal prejudices of the commissioners reviewing the case. Both of these people are refused refugee status.

Under current Canadian laws, an appeal can be made after this decision. It is taken to the Immigration Board. Montréal refugee lawyer Stewart Istvanffy has taken the appeal of these two refugee claimants along with many others to the board. He has had to deal with the discrimination some commissioners convey when reviewing these cases. *Hour* magazine's Nanthu Kumar, who writes the weekly column "Refugee of the Week", agrees that "such discrimination exists and has openly been demonstrated by some immigration commissioners."

A refused refugee appeal is not your run of the mill judicial appeal. Unlike most appeal cases, no new evidence can be admitted during the appeal process, and the reviewed decision is all just a matter of paperwork.

Once a refugee has been refused, the next likely step is deportation. However, before deportation, refugees are given a risk assessment by the Humanitarian and Compassionate Review.

Unlike France and Germany, no safe haven is provided in Canada, and the hope of ever becoming a Canadian citizen is never realised. Istvanffy says that, "Canada has one of the fairest immigration policies in the world, but what sucks is their refugee policy."

IRB Communications assistant, Siren Fisekci, says some of the criticism of the procedure is unfounded. "There will always be critics," she points out. However, she also admits some of the recommendations given by various committees, who are concerned about the inadequacies of the immigration appeal board for refused refugees, "are being followed through."

Amnesty International has taken a stand on the "forcible return of persons to countries where they face the risk of arbitrary detention, torture or execution." They have issued a brief regarding their position against the unjustified deportation of some refugees due to the futility of the refugee appeal system.

Amnesty claims Canada's refugee appeal system, since



Canadian Refugee Appeal Board does not "understand or have knowledge of the pattern of human rights violations prevailing in certain countries." — Amnesty International

its January 1989 reassessment under the Tory Government, is a prime example of a "meaningless appeal." Both Amnesty and Istvanffy agree that many mistakes are made by the IRB. These mistakes are not addressed or remedied by the immigration appeal board, a separate entity from the IRB.

"We [Amnesty] have seen decisions reveal that [Canadian] board members did not understand or have knowledge of the pattern of human rights violations prevailing in certain countries," Amnesty states.

"The Immigration Appeal Board lacks the sensitivity needed when dealing with these cases," says Amnesty's Press Officer Fay Simms. Their proposal is to have a centralized appeal "on the merits of the claim" by pre-screened and educated members of the board of a Convention Refugee Appeal Division.

Professor James Hathaway of Osgoode Hall Law School has reviewed the IRB. From his analysis, he has made recommendations to the IRB which they are now in the process of following through.

IRB Chairperson Nurjehan Mawani says, "I believe that a detailed and objective analysis conducted by someone with Professor Hathaway's credentials has proven to be a most appropriate and effective means of assessing our practices and procedures."

Hathaway's recommendations ask for all Refugee Hearing Officers (RHOs) to be supervised, while questioning refugee claimants, to discourage the process from turning into "hostile cross examinations" as has occurred in the past.

These recommendations, however, do not address improving the refugee appeal process nor do they address the fact that Canada does not protect refused refugees claimants.

The Canadian government believes "genuine refugees" should be protected. Amnesty, Kumar, and Istvanffy all agree the offer of protection is not complete unless the government implements a fair appeal procedure.

Municipal elections update

BY DAMION STODOLA

'Left' forces fragmented

A new common front of left-wing politicians, academics and community groups have come together in the shadow of the upcoming city election to be held in November.

The group's goals include local economic development and job creation, improved democracy at city hall through referenda and the implementation of an environmentally friendly waste management program.

Alliance '94 is not a political party. They define themselves more as a meeting place of progressive and/or left-leaning forces. They haven't chosen a mayoralty candidate yet but at their next meeting on March 29, one will be chosen.

But this group is not the only force pushing a progressive platform. The Democratic Coalition of Montréal and the official opposition at city hall is also running a mayoralty candidate.

The DCM did not join with the Alliance '94 group because of they felt all progressive forces could rally behind a single party label. "It would be suicidal not to have a single party label. The reputation of a party tells you about the ideology and kind of person running,"

said DCM leader Sam Boskey.

Alliance '94, anxious to steer away from creating another party-structure, had rejected that idea which prompted the DCM to leave the table.

"Election laws make it difficult for individuals to get elected," said Boskey.

Beauchamp dumps Pallascio to "avoid confusion"

Michel Pallascio, past president of the Catholic School Commission, quit Claude Beauchamp's Action Montréal party in a cloud of confusion.

Pallascio had joined the provisional direction committee of the political party February 10 only to quit a week later. The move was apparently an effort to eliminate a backlash of public opinion regarding comments made by Pallascio while president of the school commission.

Pallascio had said that Québec should prioritize immigrants with a Judeo-Christian background. This "confusion" prompted Beauchamp to ask Pallascio to resign and reassure voters that Action Montréal supports neither those ideas of Pallascio's nor necessarily the Catholic School Commission.

LETTERS

Not a counter-demonstration

To the Daily:

What were you thinking? Your editorial "comment" on Monday was a joke. You accuse Jewish students of planning a counter-demonstration: false. The demonstration by Jewish students was planned independent of any other clubs' activities. You accuse Jewish students deliberately standing opposite the PSC vigil: false. The MUC police were responsible for the segregation of Jewish and Arab students. Why don't you get your facts straight?

While Dave [Austin, the author of Monday's comment] stands on a soap-box preaching his own prejudices, the facts get lost. While you were sermonizing on why the PSC should have been "allowed to just mourn the deaths...", you failed to ask why the PSC did not want to just mourn the deaths. With signs advocating violent uprising (*Intifada*) "until the liberation of Palestine" (not just the territories, they want Israel too...), and signs reading "Zionism = Racism", and "stop the negotiations", the PSC silent vigil was screaming an anti-peace process message loud and clear.

It seems that you, Dave, suffer from selective hearing.

Rachel Temkin
U3 English

tation of the events at hand.

The Palestinian/Arab demonstration was far from simply a "vigil in recognition of those Palestinians murdered" during the massacre. It was a hostile protest which used the recent tragedy as another excuse to paint a one-sided, bloody picture of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. There was scarcely a reference to the memorial of anyone.

As a result, the Jewish presence in front of Shatner can hardly be deemed a "counter-demonstration" in any sense of the term. In fact, the Jewish gathering was the genuine mourning for both Arab and Jewish victims of terrorism from both sides. It is needless to say that it is unfortunate that Jews and Arabs cannot grieve together, but for Mr. Austin to state that the Jewish students deliberately placed themselves across McTavish is ridiculous. The Jewish students were initially situated beside the Arab students until MUC police asked that they move across the street for what was apparently traffic reasons due to the large number of Jewish participants.

It is extremely disappointing that yet another *Daily* article displays such ignorance; readers deserve accurate accounts

of events that take place on McGill's campus. This is not an unreasonable request — just read the March 8 *Tribune* articles on the same subject. That paper seems to be capable of professionalism and fairness — fundamental qualities that the *Daily* consistently lacks.

Daniel Roth
U1 Science Freshman

Can't take all the credit

To the Daily:

Though I understand that you have restrictions on space, especially when covering a Students' Society election campaign, I feel that the *Daily Français*, by removing the context from which they took my statement, gave an exaggerated picture of my activities with La Comision Francophone.

Though I am proud to have served as a volunteer, my involvement did not include my participation in the second term, as I was rather too busy with the McGill Ghetto Safety Audit. And it was in the second term when most of the serious work of the Comision, including the public hearings, took place.

Just setting the record straight,
Nick Benedict
U2 History

Sanctions killing Iraqi children: Minister

Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, Iraq's foreign minister, recently told the UN Commission on Human Rights that as a result of post-war UN sanctions more than 450,000 children under five years old died in 1993. In 1990, 3,560 children under five died. In addition, more than 72,000 children older than five years died last year, compared to 9167 before the Gulf War.



— The Militant, March 7th, 1994

U.S. judge gives okay to restrictive law on abortion

On February 14, a federal court judge in Pennsylvania delivered a significant blow to the pro-choice movement. Considered one of the most restrictive regulations on abortion in the United States, the court gave the okay for the Abortion Control Act to go ahead despite successive legal challenges from abortion clinics across Pennsylvania.

The act requires that women be shown color photographs of fetal development, given alternatives to abortion, and be required to wait 24 hours between "counselling" and the abortion. In addition, unmarried women under 18 must have the signed consent of one parent or a local judge before obtaining an abortion.

The day following the ruling, 190 women were denied access to abortions.

— The Militant, March 7th, 1994

UN military overspending in Somalia

Elders in Somaliland are angry at the United Nations' over-concentration on military action in Somalia. The Northern region of Somaliland declared its independence from Somalia three years ago.

"If a single Cobra helicopter does not take off some day in Mogadishu, that should save us \$10,000, which we could use for education, health care, democracy," said Somaliland Vice President Abdirahman Ali Farah.

Referring to the UN's lack of attention to humanitarian concerns after Somaliland's independence Farah said, "Many foreigners came here, looked around, chatted with us for awhile, and then we never saw them again."

— Worldpress Review, March 1994

Vietnam looks into Western sale of illegal drugs

The Vietnamese government is investigating illegal activity by Western pharmaceutical companies who have allegedly sold millions of dollars worth of expired drugs to that country.

A former advisor to the Vietnamese government, Lars Ronnback, told *South China Morning Post's* Peter Woolrich recently, "I am sure that people have died from these medicines."

The Vietnamese government is also investigating alleged payoffs by pharmaceutical companies to accept shipments of expired medicine. Woolrich writes, "Vietnam has uncovered so much exploitation of its Third World status, that [it] is introducing tighter legislation requiring foreign companies to fully document the history of any medicines."

— Worldpress Review, March 1994

POST-GRADUATE BRIEF

Employment policy under fire

The Post-graduate Students' Society (PGSS) council decided in its monthly meeting on March 1 to send a letter to François Tavenas, VP Planning and Resources, asking for changes to the Casual Employment Policy.

This policy led to the sudden dismissal two weeks ago of a student from Macdonald College

employed by the University.

The letter addresses the fact that the student was fired with no prior notice when the administration decided to enforce its Casual Employment Policy, which puts a limit of 26 weeks of employment per year on second and third session post-grads working on their theses. The student in question, who requested

anonymity, was not told of the policy when she was taken on.

"This came out of nowhere," said the student. "If I'd been told at the beginning that I only had 26 weeks to work, I would have made contingent plans." According to the student, the policy is rarely enforced.

Although the intent of the letter

is to ask the Administration to change its restrictive employment policy, the student may have grounds for hope.

"If the policy is rectified, there will be redress," said Nicola Dourambeis, PGSS vp university affairs, who co-authored the letter.

— Daily staff

SINCE 1911
Vol. 83 No. 79

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THE MCGILL DAILY

The state of Kurdistan

BY AHMER QADEER

In early September, 1987, when the Turkish army killed close to four hundred Kurdish villagers near the city of Diyarbakir, the international community said and did nothing.

In 1988 when Iraq bombed the village of Halabja and killed almost five-thousand people, the United States State Department expressed, "its deepest concern over the Iraqi use of chemical warfare against the Kurdish population." It wasn't the attack that was condemned, nor the fact that almost five thousand people were killed, but the use of mustard gas that the international community seemed particularly concerned with. Had the Kurds been killed on the same scale by conventional bombing, the United States and most of the international community probably wouldn't have acknowledged that the attack took place.

At the tail-end of the Gulf War when the Kurds began to rebel against Saddam Hussein, the United States denounced, "the brutal atrocities that Iraq continues to perpetuate on its Kurdish population."

This seems to be the way that the world deals with Kurdistan — perpetuate and encourage the slaughter of Kurds while nobody is looking and, when Kurds serve a purpose, champion their cause and condemn the atrocities committed against them.

Kurds are one of the largest ethnic groups in the world that have not been recognized as a nation or a territorial state. Sometimes, they aren't even acknowledged as a people or a culture. A Turkish minister was quoted last year in *Der Spiegel* as saying: "We have only a few terrorists who call themselves Kurds. But, we have no Kurdish problem."

In Turkey, Kurds make up fifteen million people out of a population of about fifty million, yet they are not recognized as being distinct from Turks. Their language is not only discouraged, it is banned. Speaking Kurdish can land you in jail as can publicly identifying yourself as a Kurd. The closest the Turkish government comes to recognizing Kurds is by calling them "mountain Turks."

In Iraq, Kurds are recognized, but are repressed. The government is waging a war against Kurdish separatists, using chemical warfare to destroy whole villages at times, leaving not a single person alive.

Syrian Kurds are confronted with a government that allows them to organize for national liberation as long as their nation involves only Turkey, Iraq and Iran. Within Syria, Kurds face discrimination and are persecuted. During the Gulf War, the Kurdish refugee camp at Zakhko, in Iraq, came under attack in what the Syrian air force claimed was a "navigational error."

In the past, Kurds have fought against invasions by Arabs, Turks, Persians, Armenians, the British, the French and now the combined efforts of several nations with the full backing of Western powers.

In 1853, when Kurds were on the verge of carving their own state out of the Ottoman Empire, Britain intervened and asked the Kurdish leader Yezdan Sher to come to Istanbul to negotiate. When he arrived, he was captured and executed.

The Turkish massacre of Kurds at Mardin in 1973 marked the first air strikes from what were to become NATO air bases. The ongoing attacks on Kurds are being carried out



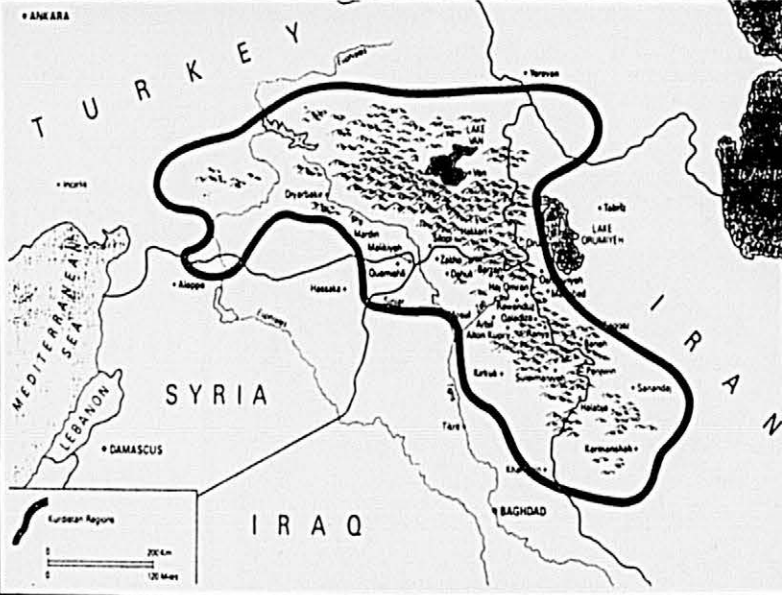
A father dies trying to shield his child as the Iraqi Air Force drops poison gas on the Kurdish town of Halabja. March 16, 1988

using weaponry attained through the West.

Western powers have carried out deliberate attempts to prevent Kurds from having their own homeland. There are several reasons for this.

Historically, Kurdistan has been strategically important because it serves as a juncture between the Anatolian peninsula and the rest of Central Asia. More significantly, it contains vast oil reserves that have been largely untapped. Part of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923 — which constructed the borders of present-day Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey — stated that Paris would maintain shares in all projects of the Iraqi oil corporation in northern Iraq.

The Turkish government recently granted Shell and Mobil Oil exploitation rights to the Kurdish regions. The companies were forced to leave in September, however, after Kurds sabotaged their operations when demands



key. Yet, it remains one of the world's most severe abusers of human rights.

In a recent article in the *Atlantic*, Robert Kaplan wrote, "the conflict that will change the face of the Middle-East is not that of Israel-Palestine, but, is that of Turkey-Kurdistan."

The Kurdish response has been a history of rebellions against incoming invaders and foreign powers. Ahmed Khane, who now lives in Montréal but has long been active in the Kurdish independence movement expressed this best: "My history and the history of all Kurdish people is that of resistance. From our earliest days we have had to fight for our country. We continue to fight for our country so that once again we can have it."

The Kurdish response took new direction in the early 1970's with the emergence of the PKK (The Kurdish Worker's Party). It has organized a war of resistance against Turkey and with its armed wing, the ARGK, it has continued to fight through a campaign of guerilla warfare. This they have done successfully despite the fact that they have a fighting force of only about 15 000.

The PKK maintains a high level of mass support in the refugee camps in Turkey, among Kurds abroad and in the Kurdish shanties of industrial Turkey. They recruit from all seg-

ments of society and have three-thousand women in the ARGK. Their support continues to grow among young Kurds. Almost forty-percent of their new recruits are women between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five.

The Turkish government has declared an all out war on the PKK. In September, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was quoted on Turkish television as saying, "The only way to deal with the PKK is to eliminate every single one of them." With municipal elections coming later this month, the Turkish government has stepped up its campaign of sabotage and intimidation.

They have had the PKK banned in places like Germany and Belgium where they harbour a lot of support from ex-patriots. Beginning with the closing of the newspaper *Urfa* and the killing of the journalist Kemal Kilic in 1991, the Turkish government has reinstituted its campaign of killing journalists sympathetic to the Kurdish cause. Several major newspapers and broadcasters have been shut down and journalists continue to disappear or are found dead.

"They kill us by day and we kill each other by night," said Ahmed Khane. "They have helped arm the KUC and the APL (rival Kurdish organizations) and the army keeps paying us to inform on each other."

Indeed, the government's strategy to divide and conquer seems to be straining Kurdish unity. Soldiers continue to pay Kurds who inform against the PKK and have pitted Kurd against Kurd in an attempt to undermine PKK efforts.

The government has taken great measures to portray Osmar Ocalan, the chair

of the PKK, as a tyrant with, "the compassion of a cobra." While much of this is government hyperbole, the reputation of chairman Ocalan and even the PKK is not entirely unfounded. The PKK has been known to be brutal in its dealings with its rivals.

The PKK maintains that it will only pursue an armed struggle as long as no viable political option exists. In an interview with the Turkish daily *Hurriyet*, Ocalan was quoted as saying: "We have never chosen war, it was a necessity that imposed itself on us. The Turkish state's refusal to recognize the fundamental human, democratic, political and national rights for the Kurdish people left us with no option than to choose and develop the armed struggle."

Despite the war and the discrimination they face at the hands of the state, Kurds maintain that their war is not against the Turkish people. "We have nothing against our brother's and sister's because they are our brother's and sister's. The Turks and Kurds have too much in common to be enemies," Khane said.

With municipal elections coming up, a number of positions will certainly go to Kurdish sympathizers. The Turkish government has banned a number of candidates who have openly declared their support for the PKK and the Kurdish cause. However, the results of this election could be recognition and rights for Kurds as well as another step towards an independent Kurdistan.

"My history and the history of all Kurdish people is that of resistance. From our earliest days we have had to fight for our country. We continue to fight for our country so that once again we can have it."

—Ahmed Khane

that the multinationals pay taxes to them and not Ankara were denied.

Kurdistan's significance is more than economic. Turkey is a member of NATO and a Western client. An independent Kurdistan would jeopardize the power balance of the Middle-East and would set a precedent for the re-drawing of borders. It would also mean that the Turkish state would be greatly weakened and as a result could no longer serve as a Western stronghold.

Time magazine recently described Turkey as being, "the democracy of the Middle-East." This is how the United States, Canada and other NATO members have portrayed Tur-

events

• **Benefit for Angola.** Monday, March 14th at 21h at Club Balattou, 4372 St-Laurent Blvd. \$3 in advance; \$5 at the door. For tickets call 398-6815. All proceeds will go to war amputees in Angola.

• **Pugwash!** Meeting today in Burnside 305 at 19h. We'll be watching a video on media/communications technology and society, specifically in Canada. All welcome.

• Submit your favourite nutritional recipes and we will prepare them for Nutrition Week. Prizes for best recipes. Submit to kiosk in Shatner building or to Health Services before March 17.

• **McGill Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)** will be presenting Dr. Abby Lippman on Criticism of new genetic and reproductive technologies. Tuesday, March 15th at 18h30 in Shatner 423.

• **Mature Student Association Members** coffee break Tuesday and Wednesday this week from 11h15

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• **Progressive Zionist Caucus** presents a viewing of the film *Wedding in Galilee* followed by a discussion with Ahmed El-Karini. Tuesday, March 15 at 16h in Shatner 302.

• **Book sale** sponsored by the Latin American Awareness Group. Lots of dirt cheap books. This week Monday to Friday, 10h to 18h in Shatner 107/08.

• **McGill-Quebec** presents La Semaine Francophone this week. Tonight's event is a presentation on parapsychology by Lavelle Plussé at 3644 Peel, at 16h.

• Submissions for **The McGill Student Film and Video Festival** will be accepted in the English Department office until March 31st. For more info, contact Allison (284-3630) or Malve (284-1996).

• **Walksafe** general elections for the co-ordinating committee will be held tonight at 19h in FDA auditorium. Pick up nomination form at Shatner 415.

• **Special lecture** entitled "Ireland: the Peace Initiative" given by Senator Maurice Manning will be held tomorrow night from 19h-20h in the Jeanne Timmins Amphitheatre, 3801 University Street.

• **Jewish Family Services of the Baron de Hirsch Institute** needs Big Brothers. Contact the Linda Wexler or Arlene Kay at 342-0000 for details.

The way it Luz: a review of el presidente

BY LORNE HERLIN

From the outset of his campaign for the presidency of the Students' Society to the present day, Mark Luz has emphasised his ability to lead and be a "facilitator" rather than advocating specific policies per se.

An examination of the record indicates the results of his tenor have been mixed at best. His definite lack of vision has in part been compensated for by his ability to work with the rest of the executive.

As Arts Undergraduate Society president and council representative, Luz had a ring-side seat to the gridlock endemic to 1992-93 SSMU council under President Jason Prince. While Prince had a multitude of policies, he was unable to get them through council because of shaky relations with fellow executives.

Luz felt that "he could do things differently and hopefully do them better". In his campaign literature he emphasized the need for "a president to lead, co-ordinate and unite the SSMU".

In his President's Opening Report to Council he wrote "the role of the President, in my mind, is to be the one who supports and co-ordinates, projects and goals of each of the Vice Presidents and the Councilors."

When asked about his accom-

plishments, he refers to programs which for the most part fall under the auspices of other executive committee members.

In terms of the society's finances, which are administered by vp finance Paul Johnson, Luz believes that he "really hit the financial side of Student Society hard this year, to streamline it and do something that is way overdue".

The changes included the implementation of a long term financial plan, the re-organization of the chronically money-losing Sadie's and the tightening of the allocation of funds to clubs. They also planned to open a student copy center in the Shatner building in August.

Furthermore, Luz claims that based on the large increase in the number of sanctioned clubs — which falls under the domain of vp internal Cornell Wright — "the number of students who have gotten involved at McGill has greatly increased."

While Luz did not attempt to take full credit for the work of Johnson and Wright. In fact he was rather lavish in his praise for both individuals in question, he even went so far as to endorse both of them in last week's elections. It just appears difficult to discern anything that Luz has done himself.

Luz responded that the "duties of the president tend to overlap with those of the other vps". He also points to his attempts at constitutional change and the reform of President's Council as programs which he him-

self initiated and fought for.

Yet despite his attempt to portray himself as the honest broker "who is willing to compromise and understand all points of view" there are a number of instances which call into question this characterization.

On another occasion Luz voted against a Senate motion concerning the official banning of the allocation of university resources to fraternities for the purpose of fund-raising. This despite a Society motion in favour of banning funding. Luz later apologized to council and stated as a "council motion he should have voted for it" but due to his personal opinion he did not.

William Phillipson, President of the Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS) is "not satisfied with the degree of consultation" that was done concerning the proposed Shatner copy center, a service which the EUS already provides. Luz acknowledges that "the situation with EUS is something I look back at, with a little regret". Luz claims that the matter has been resolved, but Phillipson claims that the EUS still has "no idea what their [the SSMU's] plans are".

As the end of his mandate approaches, Luz takes great satisfaction in the job he performed. "As Mark Twain said 'I'm glad I did it partially because I liked it and partially because it is over'".

He felt his greatest weakness was that "he was not enough of a jerk or a back-stabbing politician."

Congratulations!

- Susan Roop
- Louise Treanor
- Olga Patrizi
- Bela Constantino
- Sophia Skretas
- Richard Stahl

The people mentioned above are the lucky winners of the McGill Daily Survey Draw. Each person wins a pair of tickets to the 3rd Annual **Just For Laughs Improv Tournament**, this Wednesday, March 16, 8 pm at Club Soda, 5240 Parc.

Please pick up your tickets **TODAY**, Monday, March 14th or **TOMORROW**, Tuesday, March 15th, between 9am - 5pm at the McGill Daily Business Office, Union B-17.

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McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$2.75 per day (\$11.00 per week). McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$3.75 per day (\$15.00 per week). All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.25 per day for 4 or more consecutive days (\$17.00 per week). Extra charges may apply, and prices do not include applicable GST or PST. For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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McGill Daily Editorial Elections

Elections for the following positions
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17th of March at 5:30 PM:
Co-ordinating Editor (1 position)
Co-ordinating News editor (1 position)
Layout and design co-ordinators (2 positions)

All candidates wishing to run in the elections must be nominated by two Daily staff members.
For more information call 398-6784

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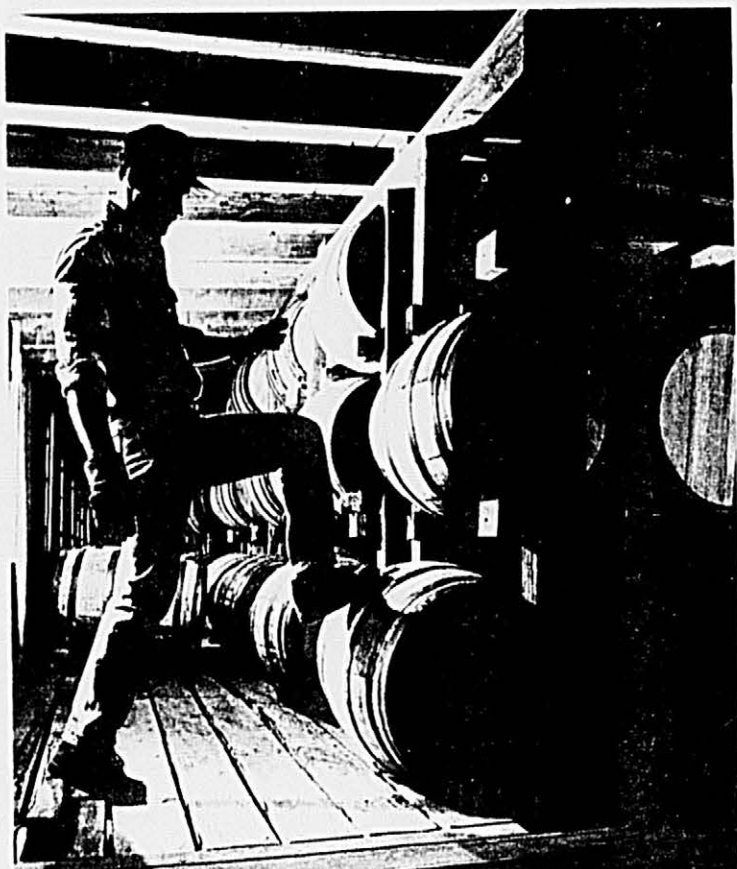
This fee will be in place for a period of four years but the question will return to referendum after two years. The proceeds of this fee will be divided equally between two endeavours:

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